

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 387

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to recognize Jerry M. Patton on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Jerry M. Patton is one such estimable person who has served with distinction as the Director of the Tennessee Technology Center at Elizabethton since 2000; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2009, Mr. Patton will be taking a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, a native of Ohio, Jerry Patton graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education; he also earned a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patton taught history and English at Tri-County Joint Vocational School in Nelsonville, Ohio, before becoming a Job Training Partnership Act Counselor at Walters State Community College in 1988; from 1994 to 2000, he served as the Student Services Coordinator at the Tennessee Technology Center at Morristown; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Patton has served the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) in a number of leadership positions, including chair of the Tennessee Technology Center (TTC) Directors' Sub-council, from 2007 to 2009; member of the TTC Directors' Sub-council, from 2004 to 2009; chair of the 2001 TTC Summer Conference Planning Committee; chair of the TTC Practical Nursing Curriculum Committee, from 2000 to 2009; 2004 member of the TTC Lottery Impact Committee; member of the TTC Student Services Committee, from 2004 to 2009; chair of the Financial Aid Committee, from 2004 to 2009; and 2004 member of the TBR Education Lottery Taskforce; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as the Director at TTC-Elizabethton, Mr. Patton has guided the institution through an orderly expansion of its student body, and he has also overseen the growth and development of the center's on-campus and online training and career readiness programs, which serve high school students as well as adults; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that the center continues to grow and meet the needs of its student population, Jerry Patton founded the Tennessee Technology Center at Elizabethton Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patton was instrumental in securing private funds to expand the Practical Nurse Program to the Kingsport and Bristol campuses; he was also successful in obtaining private sector contributions for the establishment of a Pipefitting Training Program to meet the needs of employers in the region; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Patton has always worked to establish the very best relations with faculty members, students, staff members, alumni, community leaders, employers, and government officials, and he will be sorely missed for his collegial deportment; and

WHEREAS, an active and important part of his community, Mr. Patton has contributed much of his time and energy to several worthy civic institutions and organizations, including the Elizabethton/Carter County Chamber of Commerce, which he served as Vice President; the Sycamore Shoals Hospital, which he served as a member of its Board of Directors; the Elizabethton Rotary Club; and the Workforce Development Board; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Jerry Patton has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Jerry M. Patton our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.